to overall financial constraints and increase in cost estimates.

(b) Irrigation being one of the several inputs it is not possible to assess its effect on agricultural development. Further, the development depends upon the actual utilisation of irrigation potential and not on the irrigation potential created.

Providing consumer goods to rural people

376. SHRI KRISHNA NAND JOSHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state what special measures Government propose to take to provide consumer goods to the rural people during the current financial year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): The Central Government makes available certain essential commodities namely wheat, rice, sugar, edible oils, kerosene, soft coke and controlled cloth to the States for distribution through the outlets of Public Distribution System. State Governmens have been advised from time to time to expand the Public Distribution System more particularly in rural, hilly and inaccessible areas so as to serve the poor and vulnerable sections of society.

The Central Government is also implementing a Centrally-sponsored Plan Scheme for providing margin money assistance to Village Societies for distribution of consumer articles in the rural areas. Under this scheme, assistance up to a maximum of Rs. 10,000 is provided to Primary Agriculture Credit Cooperative Societies and Large Sized Agricultural Multi-purpose Societies for opening retail outlets/taking up consumer business in rural areas. From 1978 to June, 1984 margin money amounting to Rs. 246525 lakhs has been sanctioned to 38171 societies. An outlay of Rs. 5.00 crores has been provided for this purpose during the current financial year.

Moradabad-Ramnagar-Haldwani . Rail Line

377. SHRI KRISHNA NAND JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1079 on the 7th March, 1984 in the Rajya Sabha and state:

(a) the total route Kilometre of Moradabad-Ramnagar-Haldwani rail line to be converted from metre-gauge to broad gauge;

(b) the route kilometre of railway line which has been converted so far since the project was aproved in 1975;

(c) the total estimated expenditure on this project;

(d) the total amount that has been incurred uptil 31-3-1984;

(e) the amount likely to be incurred on this project during the current financial year; and

(f) what special efforts are being made to expedite completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Conversion of Moradabad-Ramnagar MG section into BG has to be done over a length of 77.50 kms.

(b) This project was approved in 1977-78 and not in 1975. No portion of the rail line has been converted into BG so far.

(c) Rs. 15.84 crores.

(d) Rs. 2.57 crores.

(e) The outlay provided for this project in 1984-85 is Rs. 2.85 Crores.

(f) The outlay in 1984-85 has been stepped up to Rs. 2.85 crores and the work is being progressed accordingly. Completion will depend on availability of resources.